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#3-505

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant : Shuichi TAKEUCHI et al.

Group Art Unit: 2873

Appl No : 09/973,114

Examiner: D. Raizen

Filed : October 10, 2001

For : OBJECTIVE LENS FOR OPTICAL HEAD

**SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**

Assistant Commissioner of Patents  
Washington, DC 20231

Sir :

In accordance with the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. §1.56, §1.97-1.98, and supplemental to the Information Disclosure Statement filed in the instant application on January 10, 2002, Applicants hereby call the following documents, which were cited in a Japanese Notification of Reasons for Refusal dated November 19, 2002 for corresponding Japanese Patent Application No. 2000-312110, to the Examiner's attention:

Japanese Laid Open Patent Publication No. 7-311337, which was published on November 28, 1995, along with English language counterpart U.S. Patent No. 5,633,852 to MARUYAMA et al., which issued on May 27, 1997;

Japanese Laid Open Patent Publication No. 2000-260056, which was published on September 22, 2000, along with English language counterpart U.S. Patent Application No. 09/473,684 to MARUYAMA, entitled "Optical Pick-Up", which was filed on December 29, 1999;

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Japanese Laid Open Patent Publication No. 2002-82280, which was published on March 22, 2002, along with English language counterpart U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0012313 A1 to KIMURA et al., which was published on January 31, 2002;

Japanese Laid Open Patent Publication No. 9-311271, which was published on December 2, 1997, along with an English language Abstract of the same;

Japanese Laid Open Patent Publication No. 2001-249273, which was published on September 14, 2001, along with English language counterpart U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2001/0008512 A1 to MARUYAMA, which was published on July 19, 2001; and

Japanese Laid Open Patent Publication No. 2002-50067, which was published on February 15, 2002, along with English language counterpart U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0003767 A1 to OTA et al., which was published on January 10, 2002.

The relevance and pertinent portions of these documents are as noted on the attached copy of the Japanese Notification of Reasons for Refusal (together with an English language translation of the same).

Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner consider the above materials and cite the patent documents. Copies of the above-noted documents are attached and have been listed on a PTO-1449 Form which is also attached hereto. Accordingly, the Examiner is requested to initial the appropriate spaces on the attached PTO-1449 Form and to return a copy of the Form to Applicants with the next official communication in the present application to confirm consideration of these documents.

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In accordance with 37 C.F.R. §1.98(a)(2)(iii), a copy of the above-mentioned commonly assigned, co-pending application is attached hereto. However, the Examiner is also requested to review the file wrapper of this U.S. patent application at the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office and the references of record, if any, cited therein.

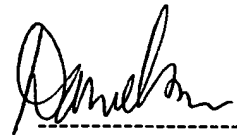
Since this Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement is being submitted subsequent to issuance of an Office Action on the merits, Applicants have provided below a Statement under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e), and thus believe that no fee is necessary to ensure consideration of this statement and the submitted materials. However, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge payment of any necessary additional fees associated with this communication to Deposit Account No. 19-0089.

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. §1.97(e), the undersigned hereby states that each item of information contained in the Information Disclosure Statement was first cited in any communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of the Information Disclosure Statement. Of course, this statement does not apply to information that has previously been cited by Applicant or the Examiner in the present application as that information is already of record and no certification is necessary.

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Should the Examiner have any questions, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,  
Shuichi TAKEUCHI et al.

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Bruce H. Bernstein  
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February 19, 2003  
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